

WI-272

1887

Thomas H. Williams Building
Salisbury
Private

Located on the north side of West Main Street is the Thomas H. Williams commercial block, a three-story, five-bay brick structure featuring a symmetrical five-bay elevation of segmental arched window openings accented with rusticated stone sills and terra cotta ornaments. The pressed brick front is divided into five regular bays with slightly projecting brick pilasters that rise to a heavy corbelled brick cornice. The first floor storefront has been altered during the twentieth century, but a center staircase still provides access to the second floor apartments.

Thomas H. Williams is credited with financing the construction of this commercial block in 1887, shortly after the devastating 1886 fire. A month following the conflagration, Thomas H. Williams is recorded as the purchaser of this property for the sum of \$500. The former owner, James Cannon, acquired this lot and its improvements ten years earlier for \$2,000. The 1885 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that a jewelry store and office were located on this site prior to the fire. Three years later, the Sanborn Insurance Map Company reissued a new delineation of the central business district indicating the structures erected since the fire. Part of the Thomas H. Williams building was used as a tailor's shop. The commercial block remained in Williams family hands until 1913, when trustees George W. Bell and F. Leonard Wailes transferred the property to Guy M. Fisher, in whose hands the building remained until the mid twentieth century.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas H. Williams Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-272

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
 Commerce

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-272

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas H. Williams Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 113½ West Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of Salisbury Parish

street & number Church Street and St. Peters St. telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P.1046
liber 1243

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 707

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-272

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Thomas H. Williams building is located at 113 ½ West Main Street on the Downtown Plaza in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-story, five-bay brick commercial block faces south.

Dated to 1887, this three-story, five-bay pressed brick front building has been altered on the first floor with modified shop fronts. A center, arched entrance provides access to a staircase that leads to second floor apartments. The adjacent bays have been altered with recessed bays and large glass display windows. Stretching across the top of the first floor storefront is a colonial modillion block cornice. The squarish commercial block is flanked by a contemporaneous building on the west and an early twentieth century block on the east. The building is covered by a low sloping shed roof hidden behind a parapet wall.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade defined by five window openings on the second and third floors. Plain brick pilasters, which rise to a corbelled brick cornice, define the five bay elevation. The center bay on each floor is pierced by a round arched single-pane sash window, whereas the flanking bays are filled with paired single-pane sash windows. The window openings have rusticated stone sills. The center windows are topped by round brick arches of raised soldier course bricks with a terra cotta ornament as keystone. Each single-pane sash window to each side has a slight segmental header, and the paired window openings are located under a larger segmental arch that spans both windows. Each arch is accented with a raised brick, and fixed between the two arches is a diamond shaped terra cotta ornament. The ends of the segmental larger arch spring from rusticated stone impost blocks. The rhythm of arched openings is repeated exactly on the third floor.

The top of the wall is defined by corbelled brickwork that stretches between each pair of plain pilasters. The original top of the building, probably a galvanized metal cornice, has been removed.

The first floor interiors have been remodeled at various times for different commercial uses. The second floor is divided into apartments.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-272

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1887	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on the north side of West Main Street is the Thomas H. Williams commercial block, a three-story, five-bay brick structure featuring a symmetrical five-bay elevation of segmental arched window openings accented with rusticated stone sills and terra cotta ornaments. The pressed brick front is divided into five regular bays with slightly projecting brick pilasters that rise to a heavy corbelled brick cornice. The first floor storefront has been altered during the twentieth century, but a center staircase still provides access to the second floor apartments.

The building is eligible for listing in Category B, which identifies structures of historic significance with many good architectural features intact. The relatively undisturbed nature of the second and third floors adds to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century character of the downtown business district.

Thomas H. Williams is credited with financing the construction of this commercial block in 1887, shortly after the devastating 1886 fire. A month following the conflagration, Thomas H. Williams is recorded as the purchaser of this property for the sum of \$500.(1) The former owner, James Cannon, acquired this lot and its improvements ten years earlier for \$2,000.(2) The 1885 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that a jewelry store and office were located on this site prior to the fire.(3) Three years later, the Sanborn Insurance Map Company reissued a new delineation of the central business district indicating the structures erected since the fire. Part of the Thomas H. Williams building was used as a tailor's shop.(4) The commercial block remained in Williams family hands until 1913, when trustees George W. Bell and F. Leonard Wailes transferred the property to Guy M. Fisher, in whose hands the building remained until the mid twentieth century.(5)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-272

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 4/2/1996

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 41-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)
Thomas H. Williams Building, WI-272
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Footnotes

- 1 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 2/9, November 26, 1886, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury.
- 2 Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 2/206, May 10, 1876, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury.
- 3 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, Salisbury (1885), Maryland State Archives.
- 4 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, Salisbury (1888), Maryland State Archives.
- 5 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 88/340, November 22, 1913, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury.

WI-272
Thomas H. Williams Building
113 ½ West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

EAT 88/340

George W. Bell
F. Leonard Wailes, trustee

to

11/22/1913

Guy M. Fisher

\$10,100.00 Decree of Circuit Court, No. 2061 in
Chancery-Real estate of which Thomas
H. Williams died seized

All that lot or parcel of land improved by
a three story brick building situated on the
north side of and binding upon Main Street

FMS 2/9

James Cannon
Lydia Cannon

to

11/26/1886

Thomas H. Williams

\$500.00

SPT 2/206

Joshua H. Trader
Olivia R. Trader

to

5/10/1876

James Cannon

\$2,000.00
being same property conveyed to Joshua H. Trader by
Schiles C. Seabreeze, Somerset County Land Record
LW 10/510

WI-272
Thomas H. Williams Building
113 ½ West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

1243/707 William J. Ahtes, Jr.
Mark S. Holloway
Marion S. Holloway, II

to

1/31/1991 Vestry of Salisbury Parish

AS 903/156 Pinehurst Manor, Inc.

to

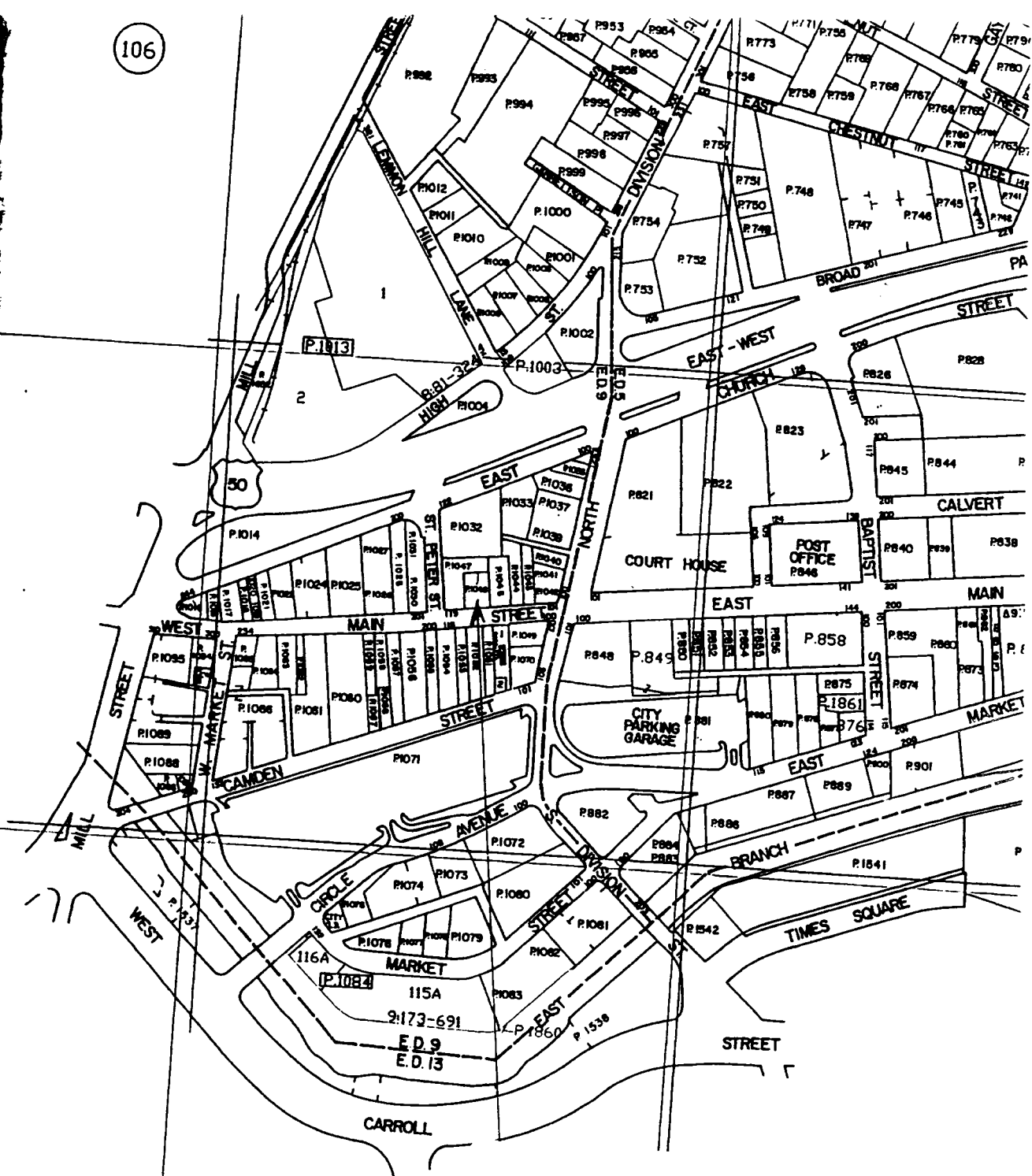
8/4/1978 William J. Ahtes

the said Pinehurst Manor, Inc. was merged with Main Street
Investors 6/7/1965

JWTS 528/268 Maude Fisher Short, et al.
Executrix under Last Will and Testament of Guy M. Fisher

to

12/5/1961 Main Street Investors



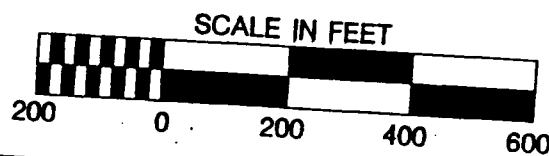
WI-272

Thomas H. Williams Building

Wicomico County Tax Map 107

Parcel 1046

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 BE REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM INCLUDING ELECTRONIC
 SUCH AS: DIGITIZING, SCANNING, AND IMAGE PROCESSING.
 ANY SYSTEM NOW KNOWN OR TO BE INVENTED WITHOUT
 PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE PROPERTY MAP DIVISION.



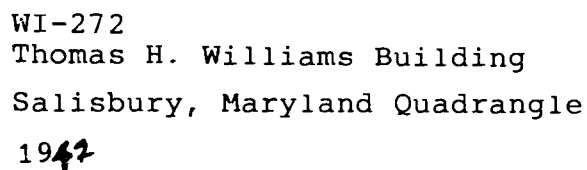
5850 1 NW
(HEBRON)

CAMBRIDGE 31 MAR
V FNN 15 31

47000m F

✓ CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA

35'





W1-273

T1410000 To W1410000 7/2/2000
S1410000 To W1410000 7/2/2000

S1410000 To W1410000 7/2/2000

W1410000 To W1410000 7/2/2000

W1410000 To W1410000 7/2/2000



